

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

FRB-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /110 W
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R 242051Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8121
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
INFO AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG UK EEC
SUBJECT: NORTH SEA OIL: EC INQUIRY INTO POSSIBLE
DISCRIMINATION BY UK OFFSHORE SUPPLIES OFFICE

L. NOVEMBER 24 LONDON TIMES CARRIES ARTICLE WITH BRUS-
SELS DATELINE REPORTING THAT EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OFFICIALS
ARE INVESTIGATING CHARGES THAT UK DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S
OFFSHORE SUPPLIES OFFICE (OSO) IS DISCRIMINATING AGAINST
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COMPANIES FROM OTHER PARTS OF EC.

2. TIMES STATES ALLEGATIONS WERE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF COMMISSION'S ANTITRUST AUTHORITIES BY MR. ARIE VAN DER HEK, DUTCH SOCIALIST MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. HE ASKED COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO ALLEGATIONS OSO WAS FAVORING BRITISH STEEL CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES OVER THEIR EC COMPETITORS.

3. COMMISSION REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 23 IT WAS MAKING INQUIRIES OF UK AUTHORITIES WITH A VIEW TO A MORE SEARCHING INVESTIGATION OF ISSUES INVOLVED. PRESUMABLY PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF ROME TREATY ARE ARTICLES 30 AND 59 BANNING QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS AND RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM TO PROVIDE SERVICES WITHIN COMMUNITY.

4. TIMES STATES BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY CONTESTING ALLEGATIONS OF UNFAIR PRACTICES BY OSO, MAINTAINING THAT ITS OPERATIONS AS A BROKER BETWEEN POTENTIAL BRITISH SUPPLIERS OF EQUIPMENT AND THEIR CUSTOMERS ARE OF A PURELY VOLUNTARY AND ADVISORY NATURE.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND INFO ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY HAVE ON COMMISSION OR MEMBER STATE ATTITUDES TOWARD UK OFFSHORE PROCUREMENT POLICY.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TRADE DISCRIMINATION, EQUIPMENT, INVITATIONS, ALLEGATIONS, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, VENDORS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
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Draft Date: 24 NOV 1976
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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TIMES CARRIES ARTICLE WITH
TAGS: ENRG, UK, EEC
To: STATE EC BRUSSELS
Type: TE
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